(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken, or proposed to be taken by Government against these people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The German tax authorities have given to the Indian Government information available with them regarding accounts concerning Indian nationals with the LGT Bank of Liechtenstein.

(b) The information has been provided by the German authorities under the Article concerning exchange of information of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Germany read with the Protocol thereto. The disclosure of the same is governed by the secrecy provisions of the said Article of the DTAA, which provides that any information received by a State shall be treated as secret and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by the DTAA. The German authorities, while giving the information, have emphasized that the information is subject to the confidentiality provisions of the DTAA and may be used only for the tax purposes specified therein.

(c) The information was immediately forwarded to the concerned Income-tax authorities for initiating necessary action. The assessment proceedings in the cases of the persons involved have been reopened under the Income-tax Act, 1961. Similar action under the provisions of the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 has also been initiated.

Harnessing of black money for National Developmental Works

322. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of harnessing black money stashed away in foreign banks like Swiss banks for nation building was discussed at G-20 summit this year;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion and outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps and strategy to be adopted for harnessing such money for national developmental works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Government has intensified its efforts to negotiate Agreements having an article on exchange of information through which tax related information can be obtained from foreign countries for appropriate action under the tax laws.